



THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20201

SEP 23 2005

The Honorable J. Dennis Hastert  
235 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515-1314

Re: Declaration of a Public Health Emergency

Dear Representative Hastert:

I am writing to notify you that, as a consequence of Hurricane Rita, on September 23, 2005, I determined that a public health emergency exists and has existed since September 20, 2005 in the States of Texas and Louisiana, pursuant to the authority vested in me under section 319 of the Public Health Service Act, 42 U.S.C. § 247d.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael O. Leavitt", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Michael O. Leavitt  
Secretary